India as the sixth most dangerous country for children

1474. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been adjudged the sixth most dangerous country for children in the world according to a poll with inputs from a panel of more than 100 aid experts and journalists as appeared in a section of press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had reacted to the said findings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Newspaper Report appeared in the Hindu on 19th July, 2006 under the title "A Controversial Survey on India". The Report stated that India has been judged as the sixth most dangerous country for children and that Afghanistan, Palestinian territories, Myanmar and Chechnya are placed better than India. It is also available on the website of Reuters Foundation that Alert Net, a humanitarian news website run by Reuters Foundation, has conducted the Survey involving 112 aid experts and journalists to highlight the world's most dangerous places for children. The first five dangerous countries are Sudan, Northern Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Somalia.

(c) and (d) The fact that have been taken into account for the Poll Survey include the children involved in armed conflict, the psychological trauma experienced by children caught up in violence, the children living in poverty and forced to work to support themselves and their families and malnutrition among children. India has made steady progress in last one decade in the field of reduction of Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, increase in literacy rate, increase in coverage for drinking water supply and sanitation facilities, etc. Efforts' are being made to improve the overall situation of children in the country. Several Schemes and programmes for children are being implemented by different Ministries and Departments, which include Integrated Child Development Services,

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal Scheme, National Programme for education of girls at elementary level, Integrated Programme for Street Children and Juvenile Justice, Childline Services, National Child Labour Project Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Pulse Polio Immunization Programme, Reproductive and Child Health Programme and others.

Children's residential institutions

1475. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of residential institutions for children are functioning in the country without licence or athorisations;

(b) whether the situation of mushrooming of large number of these institutions have been reviewed by Government recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of monitoring mechanism for children homes and Government's efforts to ensure the children' right for acceptable standards of care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such information is available in the Ministry. Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, State Governments/UT Administrations have been authorized to establish and maintain, either directly, or under an agreement with voluntary organisations, Children Homes in every district or a group of districts. In case of voluntary organisations, the concerned State Government/UT Administration certifies them as fit institution under the Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The children homes are run by the State Governments/Voluntary Organisations as per the norms provided in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the Model Rules framed thereunder. The Children homes are monitored by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and the Model Rules framed thereunder provide detailed monitoring systems including inspection and evaluation of these homes and standards to ensure rights of the children staying in these homes.